

SPIDER-MAN

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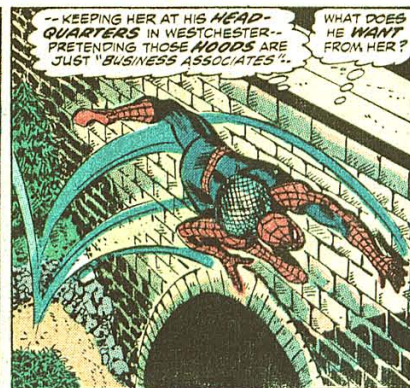
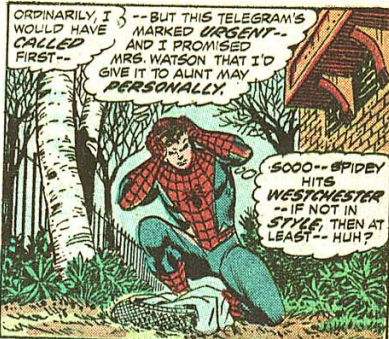
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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



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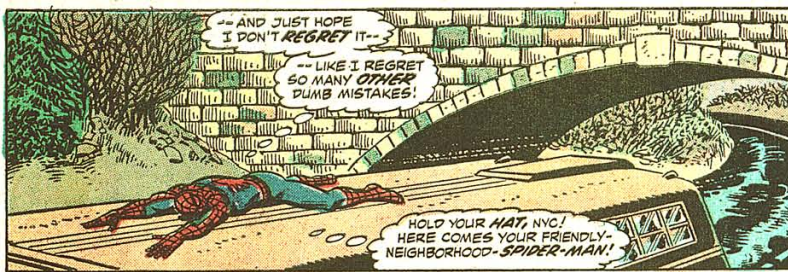
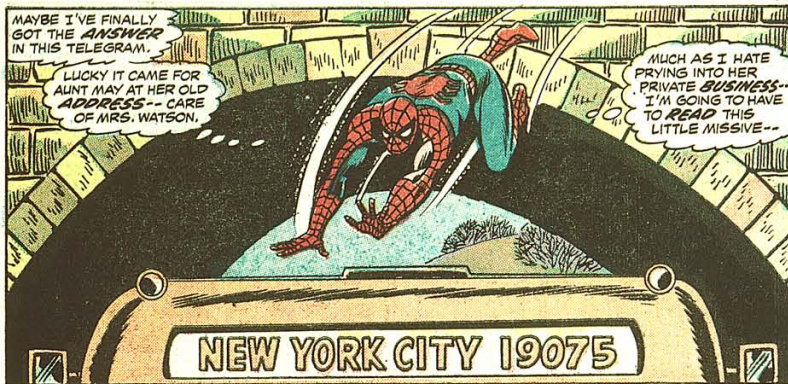
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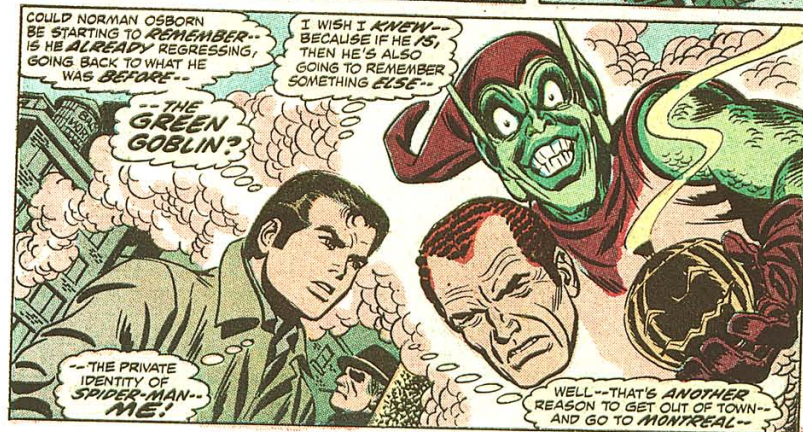
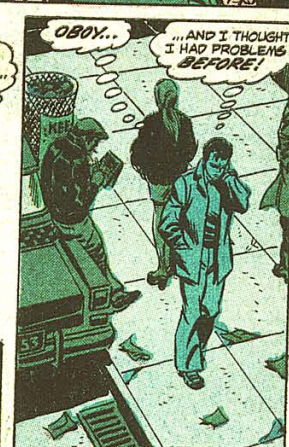
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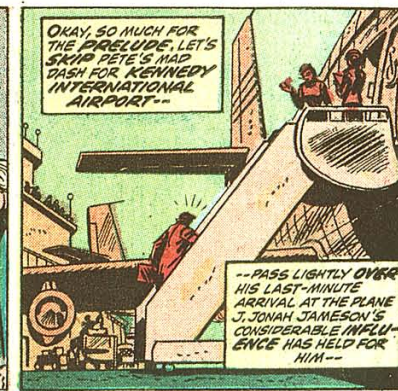
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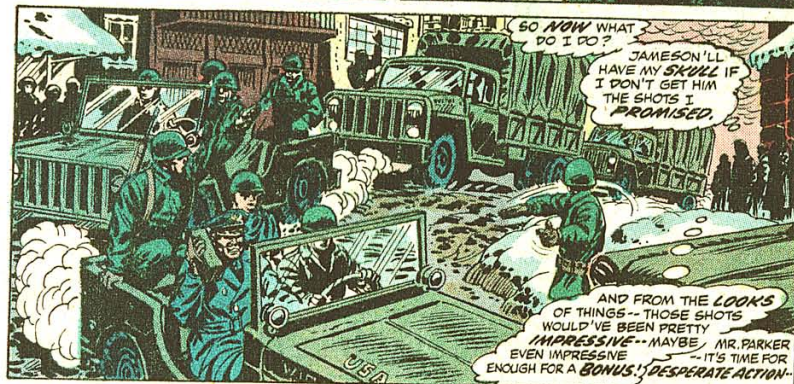
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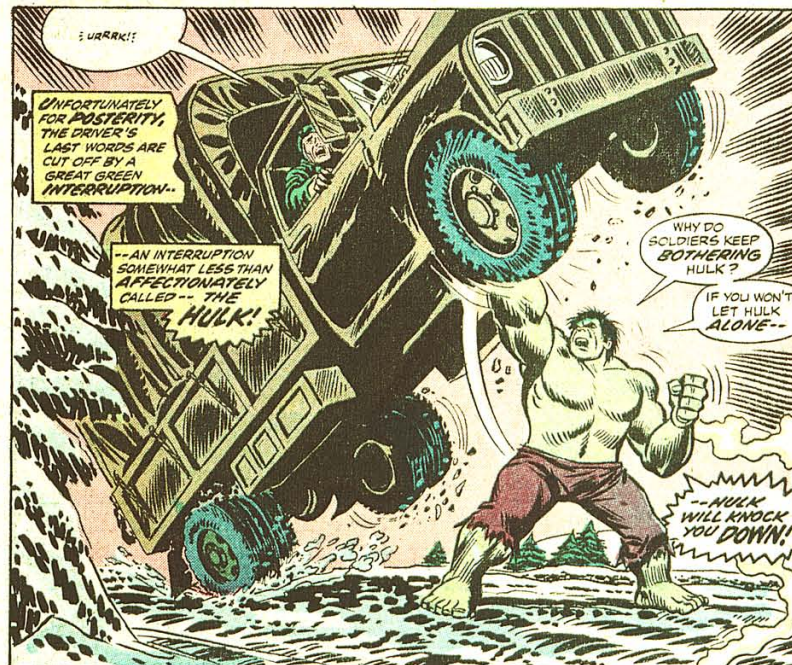
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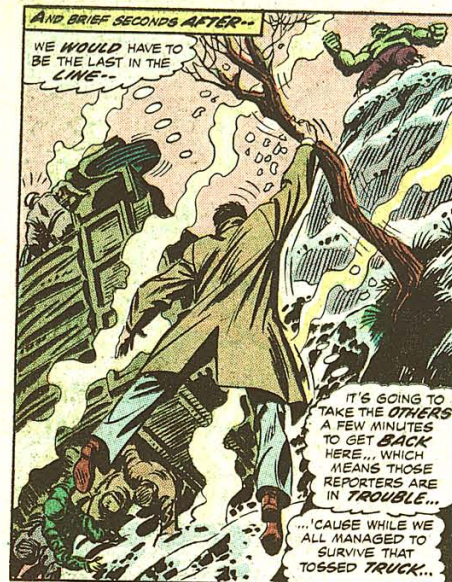
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...CAUSE WHILE WE ALL MANAGED TO SURVIVE THAT TOSSED TRUCK--



...I DON'T THINK WE'RE GOING TO DO AS WELL AGAINST A RAMPAGING BEHEMOTH!

AT LEAST WE WOULDN'T... IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD WEB-SPINNING SPIDER-MAN!

GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO DISTRACT HIM-- AND AT THE SAME TIME--



-- KEEP MYSELF FROM GETTING KILLED

AND THEN, FOR MY MIRROR MIRACLE--!

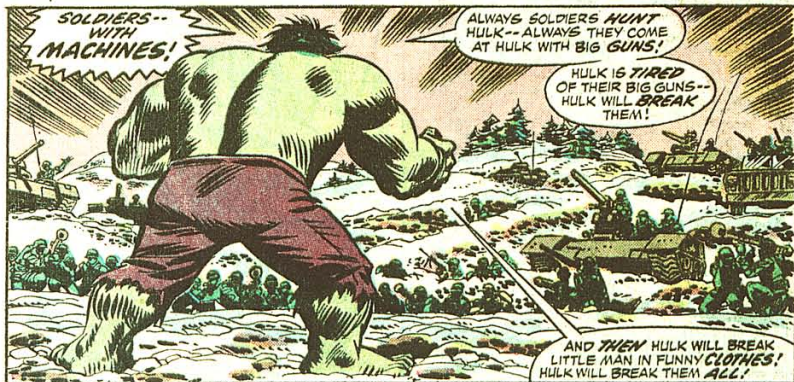
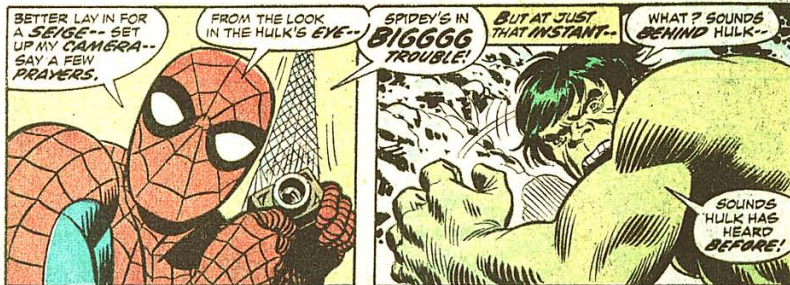
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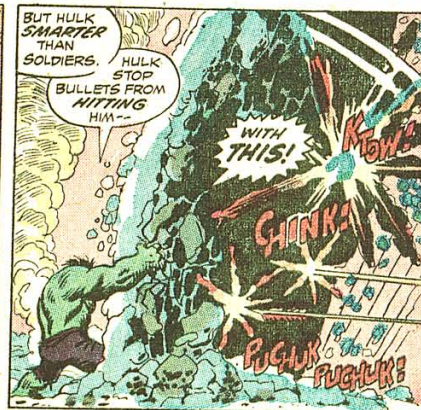
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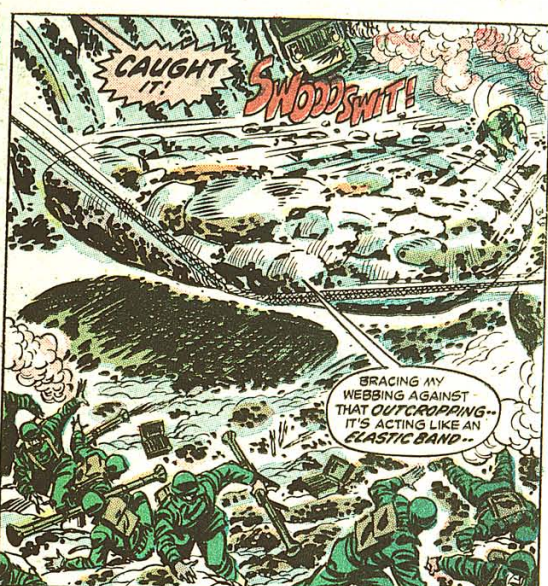
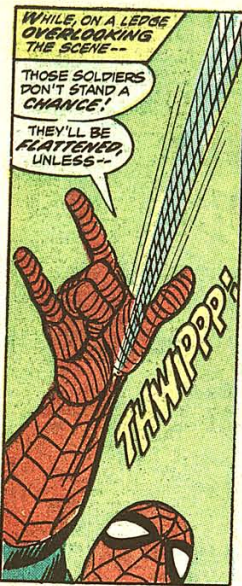
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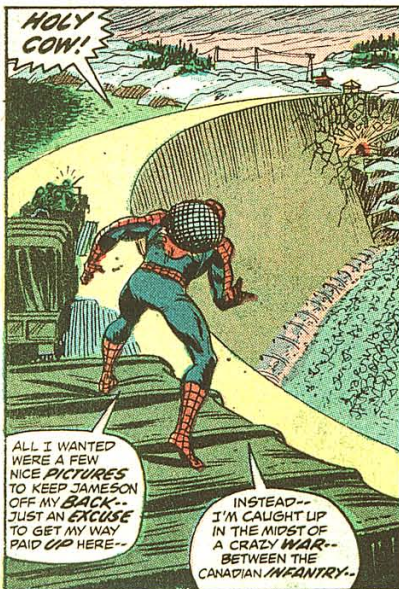
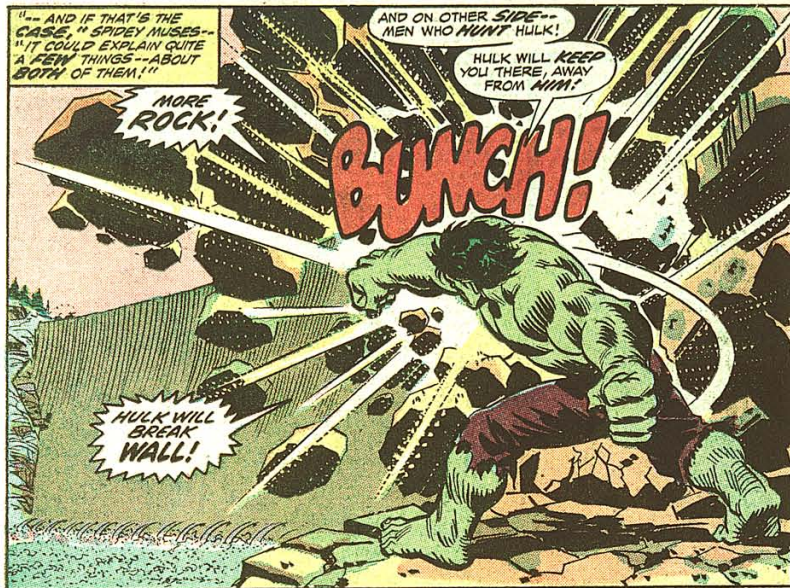
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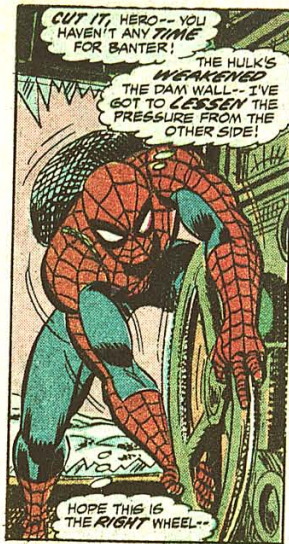
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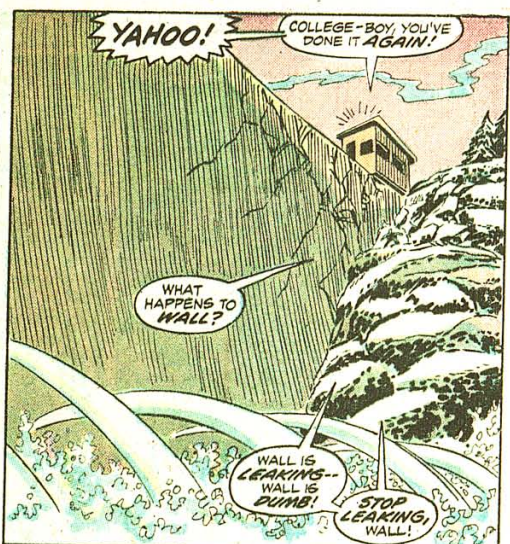
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HOPE THIS IS THE RIGHT WHEEL--



YAHOO!

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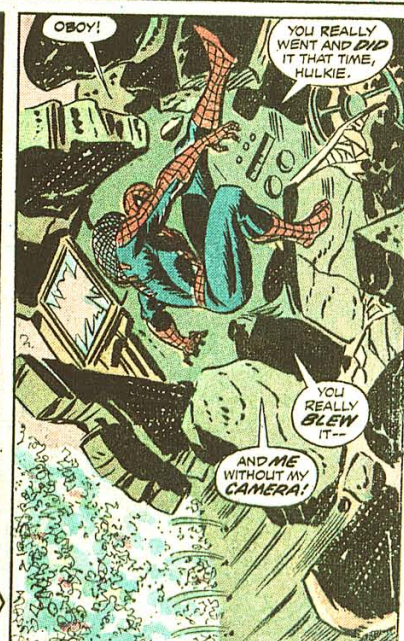
WHAT HAPPENS TO WALL?

WALL IS LEAKING-- WALL IS DUMB!

STOP LEAKING, WALL!



HULK SAYS STOP!



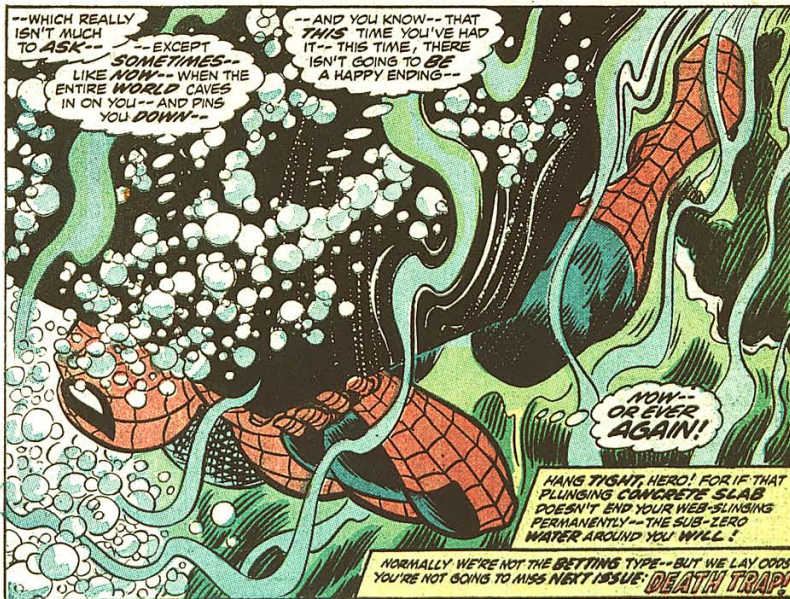
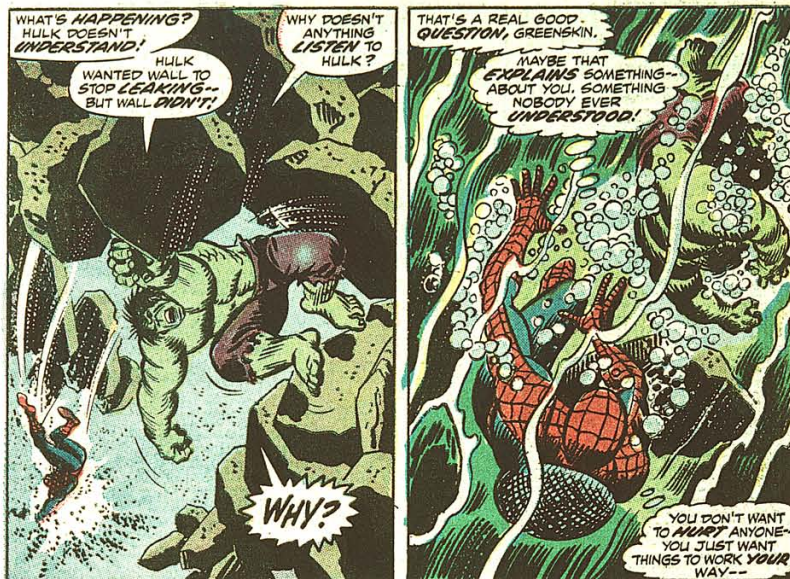
OBOY!

YOU REALLY WENT AND DID IT THAT TIME, HULKIE.

YOU REALLY BLEW IT--

AND ME WITHOUT MY CAMERA!

FOR ONE TERRIBLE INSTANT, THE WORLD SEEMS TO TREMBLE! AND THEN--



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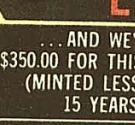


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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

It worked, gang! You proved that you really do read the nutty news, notes, and nonsense which we try to cram into these pulsating pages each month. For the past few issues we've been sockin' it to you with our memorable mentions of the latest Marvel mystery known as — F.O.O.M. We hoped some of you would notice, and we figured we might even get a letter or two asking what F.O.O.M. was all about. But never in our wildest, wackiest flights of fancy could we have anticipated the fantastic flood of mail with which you've bombarded us, demanding an explanation! So okay! The time hath come to pierce the veil of secrecy and illuminate the stygian darkness of most ignoble ignorance! And yet, F.O.O.M. is too much fun — too zingy a secret — to blow the whole bit in this one column. Instead, let's uncover just a part of the awesome answer and keep the suspense swingin' a while longer. F.O.O.M. is a name — composed of the first letters of four special words. Two of those words are "of" and "Marvel!" The other two? See if you can guess what they are by next ish. If you can, consider yourself no-prized, and don't breathe a word of it or we'll drum you out of the corps! If you can't, don't despair — you won't be deprived of the agonizin' answer much longer. So, till next time, keep the faith, face front, and don't do anything F.O.O.M. wouldn't do!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! The big news around mighty Marvel this month is — a wedding! Nope, Spidey and Gwen haven't taken the big step yet — and bashful Ben Grimm is still footloose and fancy free — but the Hulk's very own HERB TRIMPE and lovely LINDA FITE (scripter of THE CAT, what else?) finally decided it was time they tied the knot! As these deathless words are penned, they've just said their "I do's" and split for some top-secret location (the Hulk-Buster Base, perchance) for a full-scale honeymoon; then it's back to Fun City and more of our delirium-inducing deadliness! Last we heard, Herb and Linda hadn't yet formulated any plans for ol' Greenskin to start going steady with the ever-clawing Cat — but from now on, don't take anything for granted, hear?

ITEM! Face it, friend — the whole wide world is going SPIDER-MAN happy! The other day, a wild new bi-weekly called *The Monster Times* devoted an entire issue to our web-spinning wonder, with a sizable (and well-deserved) spread on artist JOHNNY ROMITA! And now, who but the prestigious *New Yorker* maga-

zine has just featured a full-length piece on Spidey's sensational new scripter, GERRY (GERARD F.) CONWAY! Hmmm... *The Monster Times*... *The New Yorker*... Looks like there are no worlds left for the ol' wall-crawler to conquer, 'cept maybe the Ladies' *Home Journal*! But, who knows — maybe one of these fine days —!

ITEM! With a pair of brawny barbarians named CONAN and KULL currently the toast of comicdom, we figured it was time we bowed to countless requests to add yet a third sword-wielding hero to our legend-laden lineup! So, step aside for THONGOR, WARRIOR OF LOST LEMURIA — a stunning new series which debuts in the current issue of CREATURES ON THE LOOSE! Thongor is the cataclysmic creation of fantasy writer (and sometime Conan author) LIN CARTER, and is the star of some half dozen or more best-selling paperback books! Story and art are by GEORGE ALEC EFFINGER and VAL MAYERIK — and wait! You dig how these two talented newcomers really move out! That's THONGOR — in CREATURES — now on the loose! End of plug!

ITEM! Apology time, people! A couple of months back, we announced we were planning a deluxe edition of miraculous MARVEL ORIGINS for release by Christmas '72! Well, our recent expansion to well over three dozen titles a month (or had you been counting?) has left us just too blasted breathless to get it all together in time for the Holidays — so we'll have to beg off for a little while, okay? Honest to Irving Forbush, though — it's only a slight delay, not a permanent setback — and we'll clue you in on the exact release date the minute we know it ourselves! In other words — watch this space! (Not that it's doing much of anything, but at least that'll keep you out of mischief till our awesome ORIGINS book goes on sale!)

MARVELOUS MARVEL MINI-ITEMS! A special vote of thanks from ROY and JEANIE THOMAS, and from Jaunty JIM STERANKO, to the warm-hearted souls who made them Guests of Honor at the New England Comics Convention held recently in Boston, Mass.! Believe 'em when they tell you — it was a ball! Talk about shockers! For months now, scripter STEVE ENGLEHART and our pal SAL BUSCEMA have been laying the groundwork for some far-out and far-reaching new developments in the life of our own shield-slingin' CAPTAIN AMERICA! And this is the month when it all comes home to roost! A word to the wise...! Finally, now that Stainless Steve has gone over to full-time writing chores, let's welcome aboard Dauntless DON MCGREGOR, whom longtime Marvelites will recall from about a zillion letters-pages, and who's now helping Rascally ROY and STEVE (Baby) GERBER handle all our prodigious proof-reading chores! For the first time since

he took over as editor some time back, summer vacations are over and Roy's got a full contingent (two — count 'em — two!) of editorial assistants to help him out — so now maybe he and Smilin' STAN can finally find time to confer on all the cataclysmic changes and surprises they plan to unleash on you in the near and dear future! And when they do — watch out, wondrous one!



MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST Now On Sale!

SPIDER-MAN #118: This is it! The way-out wind-up, as Spidey takes on the deadly Disruptor — and the lethally-strong Smasher! A thrill on every page! FANTASTIC FOUR #132: The uncanny Inhumans! The ominous behemoth called Omega! Plus — the most shock-laden epilogue ever! Miss it not!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #25: Take it from us — The start of a world-shattering new storyline, destined to make C.M. one of the most-talked-about titles in comic-book history!

MARVEL TEAM-UP #7: Together for the first time! Spidey and Thor, the mighty God of Thunder! All this — and a surprise super-baddie, to boot!

SPOOF #4: You've read Dracula — you've dug Blacula — now, feast your eyes (all four of 'em) on none other than — BLECHHula! Plus — a Spoof squint at Marcus Welby, M.D.!

CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #22: Like we said: Thongor, Warrior of Lost Lemuria! More we gotta tell you?

Not to mention this Lineup of Litten' Landmarks:

THOR #209 (Day of the Super-Druid!) — HULK #161 — CAPTAIN AMERICA & THE FALCON #159 — AVENGERS #109 — SUB-MARINER #59 (Namor takes on New York — and Thor, for good measure!) — DAREDEVIL #97 — IRON MAN #56 — CONAN THE BARBARIAN #24 ("The Song of Red Sonja") — #1 on any hit parade! — HERO FOR HIRE #7 (A Yuletide action epic, no less!) — CLAWS OF THE CAT #3 — CHAMBER OF CHILLS #3 ("The Thing on the Roof!") — Robert E. Howard strikes again! — TOMB OF DRACULA #7 — CRYPT OF SHADOWS #2 — WAR IS HELL #2 — AMAZING ADVENTURES #17 (Special! The origin of the blockbustin' Beast!) — KULL THE CONQUEROR #7 — MARVEL FEATURE #8 (The agonizin' Ant-Man fights on!) — WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #4 — MARVEL PREMIERE #7 (Dr. Strange — hot on the trail of world-devouring Shuma-Gorath!) — NIGHT NURSE #3 — SGT. FURY #108 — plus other gargantuan goodies too numerous to mention (so we won't)! Get 'em all, pilgrim! Like the man said — a prize in every package!



SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, NINTH FLOOR 375 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Dear Stan, and the rest of the gang, I liked the end of SPIDER-MAN #115... And, now that you finally ditched Aunt May (at least for the time being), I'd like to help you create some new problems for Petey — like what happened to Kraven? Most likely, you Marvelites have something up your sleeves.

Okay! Now, I have a really big question for you that's been bugging me for some time. As you know, Spidey's parents who appeared a long time ago (I don't know the ish number 'cause I lost the mag), worked for Shield as spies for Red Skull or something like that. The Parkers were supposed to be traitors or something along that line and Spidey found out otherwise. Right?

Now, if I remember correctly, when spies die, their relations get a weekly or monthly fund from the government. So what happened to Petey's little fund??? Well, I got the answer — they gave him a bundle of money he can't touch until he's 21.

Now, for the big gripe — Nick Fury lost 2 spies. Isn't he interested in their son? I mean he couldn't have hated the Parkers, could he? Sooo — why don't you have Nick's conscience bother him and have him take a look at Petey. You could put in your future plans a new way to further mess up Petey's life. I mean, think of it this way, Nick's a spy and Petey might have a problem hiding his other identity from Nick. Pete might even get mixed up in spy stuff, like it was in his blood. But, if you do think of making Pete a spy for an ish or two, remember he's not James Bond!

Oh well, till Aunt May grows a mustache and beard... Make Mine Marvel Cheryl De Boissiere

Gerry Conway sez: "Tell 'er we aren't planning any SPIDER-MAN ANNUALS in the immediate future. Let HER figure it out!"

And seriously, Gallop'n' Ger was really turned on by the previously unseen possibilities you presented... and as soon as the current sub-plot weavings become solid Spidey fabric... well, "Peter Parker, Agent of SHIELD" just may be in the winds...

John and Gerry,

Poor Aunt May... living with Doc Ock? Gracious, how the aged dear lady has changed since we've first seen her in AMAZING FANTASY #15 (although we should note that she's not aged unduly; how curious). Is it possible that the affections, first hinted at in ANNUAL #1, then brought to dim light in #53-54 have grown to a mutual "love"? Can a true SPIDER-MAN fan even conceive of Aunt May and Dr. Octavius as man and wife, or even living together?

I can't speak for a "true Spidey fan," but I, a true comics fan, and lover of the totally unexpected and unconventional, can.

Foresee the implications, the traumas, the twists. Could Doc Ock and Spidey exist in so close proximity without each becoming aware of the true status of the other? Could Spidey even consider raising his arm against his dear aunt's beloved? Could Doc Ock, discovering who his hated enemy is in truth, raise his arm against his beloved's nephew?

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

R.F.O. (Real Frantic One) — A buyer of at least 3 Marvel books a month.
T.T.B. (Titanic True Believer) — A divinely-inspired "No-Prize" winner.
Q.N.S. (Quite "Nuff Sayer) — A fortunate frantic one who's had a letter printed.

K.O.F. (Keeper Of the Flame) — One who recruits a newcomer to Marvel's rollickin' ranks.
P.M.M. (Permanent Marvelite Maximus) — Anyone possessing all four of the other titles.
F.F.F. (Fearless Front-Facer) — An honorary title bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty.

THE SPIDERS' WEB

Imagine — the possibility of Spidey and Doc Ock fighting, side-by-side, against crime.

Good God! What could this do to the hero/villain situation?

Where the morality of comics has gone — I'll never know. Let's hope it stays there with such plays as these being presented to us.

Matthew Howarth
18 Hawk Road, Levittown, Pa. 19056

Matt, something tells us you're tryin' to tell us you're clairvoyant. What do we mean? Just watch us, people — Spidey's on the move again!

Dear Stan and friends,

As I was poring over your latest SPIDER-MAN mag, it suddenly occurred to me that in Peter Parker's part of town, there exists a startling and amazing populational discrepancy — namely, that none of the regular characters have any brothers or sisters! And besides that, most of them have only one parent (or none at all). That's just plain wierd. I mean, how unreal can you get??? Now let me ask you — when this hip crowd isn't getting messed all up by super-villains and what-have-you, what do they do for aggravation? It wouldn't be too much trouble, I-instance, to mention that dear little Susie has smeared all of Mary Jane's makeup on the dog, and her poor sister had to go to class all un-lovely. After all, nearly any comic book can use a good murder story now and then.

Delayne Lucas, R. D. 1, Box 264
Coal Center, Penn. 15423

Delayne, in your own way you've hit on just the reason why we haven't delved into the families of our myriad of webbed characters: aren't their lives complicated enough at this point without getting into the various hassles (and joys, natch) of their family relationships?

You'll notice in our other mags (MAN-THING, FANTASTIC FOUR, WARLOCK) that the family trips are quite essential to the characters and the stories. If Spidey's book were like the others, it wouldn't be so unique, now would it?

WHO SAYS THIS ISN'T THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS?!

CHARLES ATLAS, World's No. 1 Body Builder, says:

Don't Be Half A Man!

Let ME SHOW How I Can Make You a Real HE-MAN From Head to Toe — in Just 15 Minutes a Day!

Take a good honest look at yourself! Are you proud of your body — or are you satisfied to go through life being just "half the man" you could be? No matter how ashamed you are of your present physical condition — or how old or young you are — the "sleeping" muscles already present in your body can turn you into a real HE-MAN! Believe me, I know — because I was once a skinny, scrawny 97-pound half-alive weakling! People used to laugh at my build and make fun of me. I was ashamed to strip for sports or the beach... shy of girls... afraid of healthy competition.

HOW I CHANGED FROM A "MOUSE" TO A MAN!

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